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and researches with respect to every special aspect of that enormously complicated physiological, psychical, and intellectual process which goes by the name of "reading." μ.

KOMIK UND HUMOR. EINE PSYCHOLOGISCH-ÄSTHETISCHE UNTERSUCHUNG. By *Theodor Lipps*. Hamburg and Leipzig : Verlag von Leopold Voss. 1898. Pages, viii, 264. Price, 6 M.

The basis of the present work was a series of essays which Professor Lipps wrote some years ago in the *Philosophische Monatshefte* on the psychology of humor. The author has laid greatest stress on the psychological side of his subject, and left the artistic and historical aspects to the specialists of other departments. There are eighteen chapters. The author enters very thoroughly into the literature of his predecessors, Hecker, Groos, Kräpelin, Wundt, Huymans, Lazarus, Vischer, Mélinaud, Herckenrath, and others. In the second part of his book, he enters upon a thorough-going analysis of the subject-matter of his inquiry, and reaches the conclusion that the feeling of the comical arises when some percept image, or idea makes, or appears to make, pretensions to grandeur, and at the same time fails to make this pretension, or appears to be unable to make it. The author distinguishes three principal species : first, all things, persons, or events, are *objectively comical*, with respect to which we experience the contrast between what is grand, important, or impressive, and what is relatively small, insignificant, or trivial. Secondly, only the activity of a person is *subjectively comical*, or witty. Wit is an expression of the human personality ; men *make* jokes. Thirdly, the *naïvely comical* is both objective and subjective at once. It always involves the contrast of two points of view—that of the person criticising and that of the naïvely comical person criticised. The predecessors of Lipps had emphasised the contrast of the positive and negative aspects which is inherent in all humor, but Lipps has gone into this question more thoroughly from the psychological point of view and more precisely studied its character and delimitations. μ.

VERSUCH EINER DARSTELLUNG DER EMPFINDUNGEN. By *Walter Przibram*. Vienna: Alfred Hölder. 1898. Pages, 28. Price, 1.40.

Mr. Przibram died before the publication of his work, and the task of its editorship was left to his brother, Mr. Hans Przibram. This little book was conceived by the author as an attempt to prepare the way for a rigorous mathematical treatment of pure psychology. It treats of the sensations as immediately given ; that is to say, as purely psychological and neither as psycho-physical nor as physiological facts ; and endeavors to marshal these facts into a mathematical system of formulæ which will furnish a complete description of the single sensations, and shall admit of discussion for special cases. The sensations are represented in arithmetical formulæ as "sects" (*Strecken*), or limited portions of straight lines (the formula being $m\,i^n$), where the threshold of consciousness is the origin of the sect,